Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes. He was assaulted. But it was a non-cognizable offence.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Is it a case pending before the Court?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I am not aware.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL DISCS—INTRODUCTION OF.

86. Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to supply the traffic controlling constables with signal cards with the words "നില്ക്ക" and "പോകാം" painted on them?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): The traffic in the State is not so heavy as to necessitate the use of these signal discs.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Has the Government any objection to provide some shade for the constables who are standing for so long in the sun?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I have been thinking of that. It will be slowly provided when funds permit.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Is the hon'ble member aware that a sort of umbrella is being used by the traffic constables in cities like Madras?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I know there are certain towns, where there are heavy traffic using such devices.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Will the Government be pleased to provide for these poor constables some shade during the summer at least?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): The Government will see whether it is possible to do it.

LEPROSY—RELIEF.

87. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government is drawn to the very large percentage of leprosy existing in Pudusseri desom, Chemmanthatta village;

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(*b*) whether the Government be pleased to depute one of the doctors in Kunnamkulam Hospital to go to Pudusseri desom and conduct injection to patients ;

(*c*) whether the Government has noted the remarks written by the Member for Kunnamkulam and Rao Sahib Dr. Isaac Santra in the Visitor's Book of the Leper Clinic, Pazhanji ;

(*d*) whether the Government has taken any action on the suggestions made in the Visitors' Book ?

Dr D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*) :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*) : May I know, Sir, as to how long has this matter been under the consideration of the Government ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*) : For the information of this House I may say that two more clinics have been now ordered by the Government to be put up in those two villages that have been brought to their notice. We have made arrangements to start clinics in every hospital and dispensary in the State. To start clinics at other places where there are no hospitals or dispensaries, we have to consider seriously because of the large expenditure involved in it. Moreover the expenditure and the trouble taken up are not commensurate with the success of the thing, because if clinics are started in places where there are no hospitals, for the first few days people come to the clinics, but as leprosy is a disease which takes a long time for treatment they do not come to these clinics after a few days. So we have to gradually proceed in this matter and start clinics only after watching the benefits accrued by the people.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*) : May I know further whether there are lepers still roaming about the towns ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*) : Yes. There are lepers belonging to the Travancore State coming from Idappilly and other adjoining places roaming in the town of Ernakulam. But many of them are burnt out cases. They are not harmful or infectious. I admit they are unsightly.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*) : Will the Government be pleased to put into effect the law by which the Police can arrest wandering lepers ?

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Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): The difficulty is, after arresting what to do with them. Our Leper Hospital at Adoor can only accommodate a limited number. Already the Cochin state is spending very nearly a sum of Rs. 50,000, which no other state is spending for leprosy relief. (*Hear, hear.*) At present it cannot go on further, and embark on any new scheme.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Have the Government any idea as to the approximate number of lepers in our State?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): It may mount up to a few thousands.

88. Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of lepers in the State;

(*b*) the percentage of increase or decrease in the number of lepers in the State in the years 1111, 1112 and 1113;

(*c*) whether any leprosy expert has visited the State during the current year;

(*d*) whether the Government has received any recommendations from the expert mentioned in clause (*c*) regarding the prevention of the spread of leprosy in the State;

(*e*) if the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what those recommendations are?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*):

(*a*) 745 according to the Census of 1931.

(*b*) No attempt has been made to take such accurate statistics.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) 1. To open new clinics at suitable centres.

2. To continue survey and propaganda work in the villages.

3. To start Village Isolation Centres.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is there not a recommendation by the expert that an younger officer should be appointed as leprosy officer.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Has the Government taken any action on that recommendation?

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Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): The same officer who came and made the survey, Dr. Santra, said on a previous occasion that an older officer should be appointed. But now he has said that an younger man should be appointed. It is a question of individual personality who takes an interest in the work that counts much. Naturally as this work is not very attractive the person, younger or older, when he has done the work for a few years gets a little slack.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): May I know what has the Government done in regard to recommendation No. 3.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): At present a senior Assistant Surgeon is going round the villages and with the co-operation of the Publice Health Department and also with the help of the Revenue authorities, he is trying to form these village isolation wards.

PAINT FOR MARKING TREES—UNUSED STOCK—DISPOSAL OF.

89. **Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following particulars with regard to the purchase, use, disposal, etc., of paint (for marking trees) made by the Excise Department for the following periods:—

(*i*) 1st half of 1112, (*ii*) 2nd half of 1112; (*iii*) 1st half of 1113, (*iv*) 2nd half of 1113, separately;

(*a*) the quantity, rate, and price of paint purchased by the Department;

(*b*) the quantity of paint made use of for marking trees, etc;

(*c*) the balance of stock left unused in each circle;

(*d*) the rate at which the balance was disposed of in each circle?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): Vide statement appended (*Vide Appendix IV*).

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): How was this paint disposed of—by auction or by sale?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): By auction.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾക്കു മാർക്ക് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ഓരോ തെങ്ങിനും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിലേക്കു ചെത്തുകാർ എന്തുവീതം കൊടുക്കണം?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാമൻ: ചെത്തുകാർ ഒന്നും കൊടുക്കണ്ടാ, അതെല്ലാം സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളും.

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